

Program Notes

Madeleine L'Engle (1918–2007) was an award-winning writer of poetry, non-fiction, and fiction. She is perhaps best known for her young adult novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, which won a Newberry Medal, and its several sequels. L'Engle wrote and frequently spoke about the relationship between science, art, faith, and human life.

Her poem *For Lent, 1966*, reflects upon the paradox between the desire to choose one's Lenten discipline, and the openness that is a mark of Christian discipleship. This tension is musically represented through the various uses of the seventh scale degree in the melody, and overlapping major and minor seconds in the harmony.

The anthem may be accompanied by organ or string quartet. Measures 8 through 23 may be sung by a soloist, all treble voices, or all voices in unison.

For Lent, 1966

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

—Madeleine L'Engle

from *The Ordering of Love: The New and Collected Poems of Madeleine L'Engle* by Madeleine L'Engle,

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A Lenten Reflection

SATB and Organ or String Quartet

Madeleine L'Engle

Zebulon M. Highben

Gently (♩ = c. 63)

p

Organ

5

Treble or All *unis. mp*

mp

p It

9

mp

is my Lent to break my — Lent, To eat when I would fast, To

p

Available Editions

Choir Score, Order No. MSM-50-5206

String Quartet Score and Parts, Order No. MSM-50-5026A

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13

know when slen-der strength is spent, Take shel-ter from the blast When I would

16 *mf* , *mp*

run with wind and rain, To sleep when I would watch. It

20 *mf* , *mp*

is my Lent to smile at pain But not ig-nore its touch.

24

is my Lent to smile at pain But not ig-nore its touch.

Poco più mosso

29 *mf*

S
A

It is my Lent to lis - ten well When

T
B

It is my Lent to lis - ten well When

Poco più mosso

33

I would be a - lone, To talk when I would rath - er dwell In

I would be a - lone, To talk when I would rath - er dwell In

37 *mp* *mf*

si - lence, turn from none Who call on me, to try to see That

si - lence, turn from none Who call on me, to try to see That

40 *f* **Meno mosso**
mp

what is tru - ly meant Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be,

what is meant is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be,

44 *p* *mf* *mp* *poco rit.*

If Christ's I'd be, If Christ's I'd be It's thus I'll keep my

If Christ's I'd be, If Christ's I'd be It's thus I'll keep my

48 *a tempo* *rit.*

Lent. *a tempo* *rit.*

Lent. *p* *rit.*